



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Senate and House Announce 21st Century Jobs Fund Select Committee

Oversight of securitization dollars is paramount to successful implementation

Lansing - Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and House Speaker Craig DeRoche today announced their plans to form a joint select committee to oversee the use of the 21st Century Jobs Fund.

The bipartisan committee will be co-chaired by Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell, and Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland. Other members of the committee include Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac; Sen. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester; Sen. Mickey Switalski, D-Roseville; Rep. Leon Drolet, R-Macomb Township; Rep. Jack Brandenburg, R-Harrison Township; and Rep. Andy Dillon, D-Redford Township.

“With over a billion dollars in taxpayer money being appropriated through grants and loans, we must take unprecedented precautions to ensure that these investments are free from political influence,” said DeRoche, R-Novi. “Job providers and investors looking to locate or expand in Michigan must have confidence in the integrity and reliability of the 21st Century Jobs Fund if it is to be successful in helping diversify the economy.”

Sikkema, R-Wyoming, agreed that ensuring confidence in the process is vital to the success of the program.

“There is a lot of money invested in this idea and while a number of safeguards were put in place when the legislation was written, everyone will feel more comfortable if there is additional oversight of the Fund’s activities,” said Sikkema, R-Wyoming. “This process needs to be free of even the slightest perception of being manipulated.”

The committee will be formed under a concurrent resolution, which will be introduced soon.

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